

Legislative Reference Service

THRU WEEK ENDING 4/11/03

NO. 4

CODE ENFORCEMENT

H-6256 STATE BUILDING CODE FEES (Lima & Others) This act would allow qualified cities and towns to retain certain levies imposed by the state building code. Corporations

S-471 SERVICE OF PROCESS (McCaffrey) This act would lessen the penalty for a nonresident landlord who fails to designate agent for service of process. Judiciary

S-513 LEAD PAINT (Goodwin) This act would provide for an income tax credit for lead paint abatement and lead paint control measures in residential dwellings. Finance

S-606 STATE BUILDING CODE (DaPonte & Others) This act would amend the mechanical trades law as it relates to the issuance of permits prior to a job being started. Labor

S-684 ELECTRICIANS (Issa) This act would allow holders of Class D electricians' licenses to install any electrical wiring, conduits and appliances on their property. Labor

S-719 EMERGENCY REPAIRS (Caprio & Goodwin) This act would limit to 6 years the lien created on property for the costs incurred by building officials who make emergency repairs on unsafe buildings. Judiciary

S-975 BUILDING CODE FEES (Lanzi & Gallo) This act would allow qualified cities and towns to retain certain levies imposed by the state building code. Finance

EDUCATION AND SCHOOLS

H-6247 REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS (McHugh & Scott) This act would provide a method for a municipality to withdraw from a regional school district. Corporations

H-6260 VOCATIONAL EDUCATION (Gorham & Others) This act would require the state to annually pay for the tuition and related costs for students attending a state elementary or secondary vocational education school. The payments would be made directly to the respective schools. Finance

H-6307 STUDENT ASSISTANCE COUNSELORS (Amaral & Others) A resolution respectfully requesting the Department of Mental Health Retardation and Hospitals to establish standards for student assistance counselors and other substance prevention/intervention specialists. Read & Passed

S-398 SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAM (Roberts & Sosnowski) This act would mandate the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education to set minimum standards for the nutritional value of foods sold in schools. Education

S-415 TEACHER ASSISTANTS (Gallo) This act would amend the requirements for being a teacher's assistant. Education

S-417 CHILD CARE PROVIDERS (Issa) This act would enable a child care program to become licensed if located in a public school building being utilized as a elementary school. Education

S-418 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (Sheehan & Others) This act would expand the professional development program for school committee members and provide funding. Education

S-421 ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION (Celona & Tassoni) This act would create an alternative education program development fund to distribute money to up to 4 local or regionally operated school districts or collaboratives to plan and develop alternative education programs for students who are chronically truant,

and those suspended for more than 10 days. Each grant shall not exceed \$150,000. Finance

S-427 TRANSPORTATION OF SCHOOL PUPILS (Alves & Others) This act would require the state to reimburse local school committees for the entire cost of transportation of pupils to another city/town as required by state law. Finance

S-428 STUDENT EQUITY INVESTMENT FUND (Alves & Others) This act would allocate moneys from the Student Equity Investment Fund based on each district's proportion of resident children eligible for USDA reimbursable school meals relative to the total number of eligible students statewide. Finance

S-440 AIR QUALITY IN SCHOOLS (Perry & Others) This act would direct the Department of Health to establish rules and regulations regarding air quality in elementary and secondary schools. Health & Human Services

S-518 STUDENT EQUITY INVESTMENT FUND (Paiva-Weed & Alves) This act would allocate moneys from the Student Equity Investment Fund based on each district's proportion of resident children eligible for USDA reimbursable school meals relative to the total number of eligible students statewide. Finance

S-528 TRANSPORTATION OF SCHOOL PUPILS (Paiva-Weed & Others) This act would require the state to reimburse local school committees for the entire cost of transportation of pupils to another city/town as required by state law. Finance

S-570 ATHLETIC COACHES (Gallo) This act would require applicants for coaching positions in public schools to have a relatively updated first aid certificate, and would require the participating schools to require proof of the certificate. Health & Human Services

S-593 FIRST GRADE (Gallo) This act would provide that a child who has or will have completed six (6) years of life on or before September 1, rather than December 1, of any school year shall be eligible to attend first grade. Education

S-594 ATTENDANCE REQUIRED (Gallo) This act would provide that a child who has or will have completed six (6) years of life by September 1, rather than December 1, of any school year, and has not completed 16 years of life, must regularly attend school. Education

S-595 CERTIFICATION OF TEACHERS (Blais) This act would repeal the section of law which would allow for the issuance of a teaching certificate without a satisfactory score on the standardized teacher's exam. Education

S-660 SAFETY OF PUPILS (McCaffrey) This act would require school administrators to incorporate a formal notice of threat policy in their school safety plans. Judiciary

S-712 WEAPONS: SCHOOL GROUNDS (Roberts & Others) This act would provide for a separate felony criminal offense for discharging a weapon on school grounds. Judiciary

S-769 CIGARETTE TAX (Goodwin) This act would impose a five-cent per pack "education tax" on cigarettes; and would set the minimum price of a pack of cigarettes at such rates that retailers would realize a 15% profit on sales. Finance

S-785 SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS (Sheehan & Others) This act would establish the "Special Education Statewide Mean Supplemental Fund" to provide additional funds to school districts which receive special needs students during the school year. Finance

S-843 TELECOMMUNICATIONS (Gallo) This act would establish the Rhode Island Telecommunications Education Access Fund. Financial, Technology, Regulatory

S-846 OPEN MEETINGS (Paiva-Weed) This act would require school committees to give notice of meetings in a similar manner as other public bodies rather than being required to give notice by publishing in a newspaper. Government Oversight

S-863 HEALTH EDUCATION (Pichardo & Others) This act would clarify the areas of instruction in health and physical education to children in grades 1 through 12 who attend public schools. Education

S-865 CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS (Gallo) This act would eliminate the requirement that no more than 2 charters be granted in a single school district, and that no more than 4 charters may be granted in a district with more than 20,000 students. Education

S-867 PRIVATE SCHOOLS (Tassoni & Others) This act would require all institutions of secondary or higher learning, which are established, incorporated, or doing business in this state, to first obtain accreditation by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). Education

S-868 SCHOOL ATTENDANCE: DRIVER'S LICENSE (Raptakis) This act would set eligibility requirements for school attendance for a minor student to obtain a driver's license. Education

S-869 STUDENT DISCIPLINE CODES (Polisena & Damiani) This act would direct public schools to adopt policies that prohibit bullying. Education

S-870 CIVIC EDUCATION (Gallo & Fogarty) This act would add 6 new members to the Civic Education Commission. Education

S-882 SCHOOL ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH (Perry & Others) This act would establish a school environmental health unit within the Department of Health to promote methods to reduce the incidence of respiratory and other ailments in state schools. Health & Human Services

S-893 DRIVER EDUCATION (Gallo & Others) This act would transfer the administration of the driver education program from the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education to the Community College of Rhode Island. Joint Highway Safety

S-984 REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS (Algiere & Breene) This act would provide a method for a municipality to withdraw from a regional school district. Education

ELECTIONS

S-481 STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS (DaPonte & Others) This act would establish a complaint procedure for the Board of Elections to act upon complaints under the Help America Vote Act. Judiciary

S-488 IDENTIFICATION OF PARTY VOTERS (Sosnowski & Others) This act would provide that ballot applications used by voters of any party must be the same color, and that all computer ballots must be the same color. Judiciary

S-526 ELECTION WORKERS (DaPonte & Ruggerio) This act would allow the current remuneration exemption for election workers to be raised to the amount allowed by Social Security. Finance

S-698 VOTING LISTS: INACTIVE NAMES (Bates & Others) This act would increase the power of local boards of canvassers to purge inactive names from the voting lists. Judiciary

S-716 MAIL BALLOTS (Pichardo & Others) This act would allow U.S. citizens residing outside the United States to register to vote and apply for a mail ballot for federal offices through the use of the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA). This act would also eliminate the requirement for notarization or witnesses for these registration and ballot materials. Judiciary

S-728 BALLOT SECURITY AND STORAGE (Badeau) This act would amend provisions of the election laws relating to ballot storage and security. Judiciary

S-732 VOTING DISTRICTS AND OFFICIALS (Badeau) This act would provide a number of changes to laws regulating primaries and elections relating to the appointment of election officials. Judiciary

S-733 VOTING DISTRICTS (Badeau) This act would provide greater flexibility in establishing and combining voter districts when conditions warrant. Judiciary

S-734 REGISTRATION OF VOTERS (Badeau) This act would ensure that the voter registration card forms comport with the requirements of the Help America Vote Act of 2002. Judiciary

S-735 PROCEDURE FOR VOTING (Badeau) This act would specify the requirements and procedures for voting, would set forth the requirements for the validity of ballots for first time voters who register and vote by mail and also would create a right to cast a provisional ballot in an election for federal office in accordance with the provisions of the Help America Vote Act of 2002. Judiciary

S-737 REGISTRATION BY MAIL (Badeau) This act would ensure that the mail registration process comports with the requirements of the Help America Vote Act of 2002. Judiciary

S-757 ELECTION OFFICIALS: COMPENSATION (Badeau) This act would increase the minimum compensation of election officials. Finance

ENVIRONMENT

S-413 REFUSE DISPOSAL (Sosnowski) This act would allow the Department of Environmental Management to approve solid waste management demonstration projects. Environment & Agriculture

S-507 LEAD HAZARD MITIGATION (Goodwin) This act would allocate \$2,000,000 to fund the Lead Hazard Mitigation Act. Finance

S-580 GROUND WATER PROTECTION AREAS (Sosnowski & Others) This act would add ground water protection areas delineated by local zoning ordinances as areas where solid waste disposal facilities are prohibited. Environment & Agriculture

FINANCE AND TAXATION

H-6265 FISCAL NOTES (Crowley) This act would provide for fiscal notes to accompany any bill, resolution or regulation that effects revenues, expenditures or fiscal liability of the state, city, town or agencies. Finance

H-6268 DISTRESSED COMMUNITIES RELIEF FUND (Schadone & Corvese) This act would provide that any community that becomes ineligible for state aid following a year of eligibility would be held harmless by the State of Rhode Island for the immediate subsequent year of ineligibility. Finance

H-6276 STATE AID (Aubin & Lowe) This act would repeal the provisions of the General Laws which provide for an adjustment to tax levies, assessed values, and full values of property when computing the amount of state aid to municipalities, and, in particular, the upward adjustments based upon the amount of state payment to a municipality in lieu of taxes (PILOT) and the fire district tax levies within a municipality, which result in a reduction of the amount of state aid. Finance

H-6301 BUSINESS TAX RETURNS (McNamara & Others) This act would enable cities and towns to examine business tax returns for the purpose of verifying the assessment of tangible personal property. Judiciary

H-6302 TAX SALES (Handy & Others) This act would permit cities and towns to assign their liens for unpaid real estate taxes. The assignee would have the same lien priority as the assigning municipality along with a private lien holder's right to enforce. Judiciary

H-6313 STATE AID: MUNICIPAL PARKS (DeSimone & Others) This act would require state aid to cities and towns if they can document usage of open spaces within their limits of more than 50% by nonresidents. Finance

H-6319 PAYMENT IN LIEU (Giannini & Others) This act would gradually increase the percentage of the state appropriations in lieu of taxes for certain exempt private and state properties starting with 35% on July 1, 2003, and finally reaching 50% as of July 1, 2006. Finance

H-6321 TAX ON CERTAIN VEHICLES AND TRAILERS (Moura & Others) This act would require owners of vehicles to provide a city/town with documentation proving registration to be eligible for exemption from local taxation. Corporations

H-6328 PAYMENT IN LIEU: CIVIC CENTERS (Giannini & Others) This act would mandate that any amount appropriated by the General Assembly for a municipally owned civic center be utilized only for that center's operations and capital improvement. Finance

S-377 HOTEL TAX (Paiva-Weed & Others) This act would increase the amount of the hotel tax given to the city/town where the hotel is located from 25% to 35%, and would reduce the amount allocated to general revenues from 21% to 11%. Finance

S-420 TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR FARMLAND (Breene & Others) This act would enable cities and towns to exempt farmland from taxation when the owner has conveyed the development rights of that land. Finance

S-425 SCHOOL AID (Raptakis & Others) This act would provide that, in determining local school aid, the state would annually provide each community no less than an amount equal to the aid given in the preceding fiscal year. Finance

S-430 VIDEO LOTTERY TERMINALS (Parella & Others) This act would earmark funds received from new video lottery terminals to educational purposes, including elementary and secondary education, and adult education. Finance

S-476 TAX SALES (McCaffrey & Others) This act would make numerous changes to the tax sales law. Judiciary

S-501 MASSACHUSETTS BAY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (DaPonte & Others) This act would mandate that all the real and personal property of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) be exempt from Rhode Island taxation, and would further mandate that the MBTA not be required to pay any tax, excise, or assessment to this state. Finance

S-509 PAYMENT IN LIEU (Ruggerio & Goodwin) This act would gradually increase the percent of the state appropriations in lieu of taxes, starting with 35% on July 1, 2003, and finally reaching 50% as of July 1, 2006. Finance

S-514 VETERANS' EXEMPTION (Breene & Parealla) This act would extend the property tax exemption for veterans of the Vietnam conflict to the period between June 20, 1960, and May 7, 1975. Finance

S-517 MOTOR VEHICLES EXCISE TAX (McCaffrey) This act would establish rules for the methodology for determining the presumptive value of motor vehicles subject to the excise tax of December 31, 2003. Finance

S-523 STATE AID: MUNICIPAL PARKS (Perry & Others) This act would require state aid to cities and towns if they can document usage of open spaces within their limits of more than 50% by nonresidents. Finance

S-647 PAYMENT IN LIEU (Ruggerio & Others) This act would mandate that any amount appropriated by the General Assembly for a municipally owned civic center be utilized only for that center's operations and capital improvement. Finance

S-648 MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE TAXES (Ruggerio & Others) This act would provide for the administrator of the Division of Motor Vehicles to suspend or revoke an individual's motor vehicle registration for failure to pay excise tax to a municipality. Commerce, Housing & Municipal Government

S-653 PAYMENT IN LIEU (Ruggerio & Others) This act would add any municipally owned civic center to the list of properties eligible for state aid because of a loss of tax revenue. Finance

S-654 PENSION FUND REFINANCING BONDS (Ruggerio & Others) This act would allow municipalities to issue pension fund refinancing bonds to fund unfunded pension liability. Finance

S-655 PAYMENT IN LIEU (Ruggerio & Others) This act would increase the annual appropriation for payment to cities and towns in which certain tax exempt property is located from 27% to 30%. Finance

S-675 PROPERTY REVALUATION (Issa) This act would change the requirement on an update of real property from 3 years to 5 years after a revaluation. Judiciary

S-697 STAY OF COLLECTION (Connors & Fogarty) This act would permit a taxpayer to seek a stay in superior court in connection with an appeal for relief from assessment. Judiciary

S-742 TAX ON CERTAIN VEHICLES AND TRAILERS (Caprio & Goodwin) This act would require owners of vehicles to provide a city/town documentation proving registration to be eligible for exemption from local taxation. Finance

S-747 PROPERTY REVALUATION (Raptakis) This act would change the requirement on an update of real property from 3 years to 5 years after a revaluation. Finance

S-752 IMPACT FEES (Raptakis & Others) This act would allow cities and towns to impose an impact fee for the impact on education resulting from low/moderate income housing construction. Finance

S-755 SCHOOL AID: GROUP HOMES (Gibbs & Others) This act would prorate the amount of state aid that a city/town receives for a group home or other residential facility if the home or facility relocates to another city/town during the school year. Finance

S-765 VIDEO LOTTERY TERMINALS (Cote & Others) This act would mandate that starting in FY 2004, the percentage allocation of net terminal income would be determined by the amount of income derived, the total amount of state aid would be recalculated, as well as the income level computation for elderly pharmaceutical assistance. Finance

S-767 MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE TAX (McCaffrey) This act would establish rules for the methodology for determining the value of motor vehicles subject to the excise tax of December 31, 2003. Finance

S-768 PAYMENT IN LIEU (Paiva-Weed & Others) This act would increase the pilot program reimbursement to the cities and towns over the next 5 years. Finance

S-772 STATE AID (Goodwin) This act would take into account tax exempt institutions serving a statewide constituency when determining state aid to various communities. Finance

S-773 LOW INCOME HOUSING (Goodwin) This act would increase the tax on certain low income residential property encumbered by covenants in favor of a governmental unit or Rhode Island Housing and Mortgage Finance Corporation from 8% to 11% of the previous year's scheduled rental income. Finance

S-776 MEALS AND BEVERAGES SALES TAX (Paiva-Weed & Goodwin) This act would increase the sales tax by 1% on meals and beverages, and would allow the city/town where the sales take place to retain the additional tax. Finance

S-778 BACK TAXES ON REAL ESTATE (Goodwin) This act would allow a municipality to recalculate back municipal taxes that have been erroneously or illegally computed on real estate located within the municipality. Finance

S-786 NEW REAL ESTATE CONSTRUCTION (Bates & Celona) This act would permit all cities and towns to raise taxes on new real estate construction as soon as it is completed. Finance

S-793 EDUCATIONAL PROFIT-GENERATING REAL ESTATE (Polisena & Others) This act would allow taxation of real estate owned by nonstate colleges and universities that generate profits not substantially related to their exempt educational purpose. Finance

S-960 LOW INCOME HOUSING (Badeau & Cote) This act would relieve communities of the limitation on taxation applicable to certain low/moderate income housing. Commerce, Housing & Municipal Government

S-1002 TAX SALES (Gallo & Others) This act would permit cities and towns to assign their liens for unpaid real estate taxes. Finance

S-1007 BUSINESS TAX RETURNS (Roberts & Others) This act would enable cities and towns to examine business tax returns for the purpose of verifying the assessment of tangible personal property. Commerce, Housing & Municipal Government

LABOR RELATIONS

S-611 MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES' ARBITRATION (Ruggerio & Others) This act would require the state to pay up to \$15,000 in compulsory mediation costs to resolve municipal employee/union contract negotiations. Finance

S-612 SCHOOLTEACHERS' ARBITRATION (Ruggerio & Others) This act would increase the maximum compulsory mediation costs the state pays from \$5,000 to \$15,000. Finance

S-615 MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES' ARBITRATION (Ruggerio & Others) This act would provide that any mediation involving unresolved issues submitted to compulsory mediation between the negotiating or bargaining agent, and a municipal employer be conducted at no expense to the parties to the mediation. Finance

S-616 ARBITRATION OF LABOR CONTROVERSIES (Ruggerio & Others) This act would decrease the time period within which notice of a motion to vacate, modify or correct an award must be served upon an adverse party or his/her attorney after the award is filed or delivered. Labor

LIQUOR CONTROL AND LICENSES

S-592 CLASS N NIGHTCLUB LICENSE (Goodwin) This act would require any establishment with an occupancy permit of less than 200 people with an entertainment license to hold a Class N license. Constitutional & Gaming Issues

S-887 RETAIL LIQUOR LICENSES (McCaffrey) This act would require that holders of Classes B, C, D, E, J and N licenses comply with alcohol server training regulations. Constitutional & Gaming Issues

PLANNING AND ZONING

H-6274 ENERGY FACILITY SITING (Aubin & Lowe) This act would prohibit the siting board to overrule local authorities' findings regarding land use and zoning if a compelling state interest is absent. Corporations

PUBLIC SAFETY – POLICE AND FIRE

H-6213 WEAPONS (Menard & Others) This act deals with the liability of a person who negligently leaves a firearm on his/her premises in such a manner that a child may obtain it, and it would also establish liability for any such firearm, regardless of whether it is loaded or not, if a child transports the firearm to a school. Judiciary

H-6225 IMPACT OF FIREARMS ON SCHOOL CHILDREN AND JUVENILES (Moran & Others) This resolution would create a 9-member special legislative commission whose purposes are to study and review the impact of existing programs on the incidence of youth-related firearms violence, and to develop initiatives to counter the threat of youth gun-related crime through a comprehensive and strategic prevention plan. Judiciary

H-6258 VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER TRAINING (Gorham & Others) This act would provide a tax credit for employers who allow employees time off for volunteer firefighter training. Finance

H-6259 VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER SAVINGS ACCOUNTS (Gorham & Others) This act would permit a volunteer firefighter to be allowed a deduction of a maximum of \$500 when contributing to a volunteer firefighter savings account. Finance

H-6277 CRIMINAL RECORDS CHECK (Aubin & Lowe) This act would amend the procedure for whom must perform criminal records checks in order to be employed by a child care facility. H.E.W.

H-6283 PROPERTY HELD BY POLICE DEPARTMENTS (Aubin & Lowe) This act would provide that city, town and state police departments would be allowed to keep confiscated property, and that any income from such confiscated property would be used for police-related community functions and other law enforcement purposes. Judiciary

H-6284 LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS' BILL OF RIGHTS (Aubin & Lowe)

This act would provide for the presiding justice of the superior court to select a third hearing committee member, who shall serve as chairperson of the hearing committee, with regard to hearings held as a result of a complaint against a law enforcement officer. Judiciary

H-6292 WEAPONS (Shavers & Gallison) This act would give any city/town discretion when issuing concealed weapon permits. Judiciary

S-385 TRAFFIC VIOLATION – SEARCH (Perry & Others) This act would prohibit law enforcement officers from using violations of the traffic laws as the bases for stopping a motor vehicle for other reasons, and would provide that no motor vehicle operator would be requested to consent to a search of the motor vehicle which is stopped solely for a traffic violation. Judiciary

S-405 TRAFFIC STOPS (Perry & Others) This act would require the Traffic Stop Study Advisory Committee to hold public meetings to discuss the final report, and would provide more time to report the findings and conclusions. Highway Safety

S-449 REPORTS BY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS (Algieri & Bates) This act would increase from \$1,000 to \$5,000 the threshold amount of damage without personal injury that would require law enforcement to report when investigated. Judiciary

S-451 INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS (Blais & Others) This act would provide law enforcement officials with the authority to obtain information from internet service providers pursuant to an administrative subpoena authorized by a chief of police, superintendent of state police, or by an assistant attorney general. Judiciary

S-458 LAW ENFORCEMENT ACCREDITATION (Pichardo & Others) This act would create a commission within the executive department to act as the accreditation authority for Rhode Island law enforcement agencies. Judiciary

S-477 WEAPONS (Pichardo & Others) This act would prohibit anyone who is the subject of a restraining order issued as the result of violence from purchasing, owning, carrying, transporting, or having in his/her possession any firearms. Judiciary

S-478 LAW ENFORCEMENT STANDARDS AND TRAINING (Pichardo & Others) This act would enact a comprehensive revision of law enforcement standards and training to promote and foster professionalism. Judiciary

S-480 SEXUAL OFFENDER (McCaffrey & Goodwin) This act amends the Sexual Offender Registration and Community Notification Act. Judiciary

S-487 DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE (Algiere & Others) This act would establish the procedures for the administration of a chemical test in cases where death results. Judiciary

S-499 DISABLED POLICE OFFICERS (Polisena & Others) This act would eliminate the definition of “totally and permanently disabled” from the section on tuition to children of dying or disabled police officers. Finance

S-546 MOTOR VEHICLES (Celona & Others) This bill would delete the limitation of use of Segway personnel mover to governmental agencies. Commerce, Housing & Municipal Government

S-552 ABANDONED VEHICLES (Paiva-Weed & Walaska) This act would broaden the definition of “abandoned motor vehicle” to include newer vehicles, and would also broaden the definition of “garage keeper” to include any establishment charging per diem for the storage of motor vehicles. Commerce, Housing & Municipal Government

S-610 OPERATION OF EMERGENCY VEHICLES (Ruggerio & Others) This act would exempt the operator of an emergency vehicle who is returning from an emergency or en route to or from official business from an increase in liability insurance rates due to damages resulting from that operator’s negligence. Judiciary

S-650 CONSOLIDATION OF POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS (Ruggerio & Others) This act would prohibit cities and towns from consolidating their respective police and fire departments. Commerce, Housing & Municipal Government

S-652 SUBCONTRACTING OF FIRE, POLICE AND RESCUE SERVICES (Ruggerio & Others) This act would require that private agreements between municipalities and private employers to provide personnel to perform fire, police or rescue services contain a stipulation requiring prescribed rates of wages as determined by the Director of the Department of Labor. Labor

S-665 DOMESTIC ABUSE PREVENTION (McCaffrey) This act would add the surrender of all firearms in a person's possession, care, custody, or control to the local police department to the list of protective orders pursuant to a complaint filed due to domestic abuse. Judiciary

S-666 DOMESTIC ASSAULT (McCaffrey) This act would expand the protective orders for a domestic abuse victim to include ordering a defendant to surrender all firearms to the local police. Judiciary

S-690 PYROTECHNIC DISPLAYS (Irons & Others) A joint resolution creating a special legislative commission to study all aspects of law and regulation concerning pyrotechnic displays and fire safety. Read & Passed

S-704 CUSTODIAL INTERROGATION (Pichardo & Others) This act would require, with certain exceptions, the recording of statements made by an accused during a custodial interrogation for admissibility into evidence. Judiciary

S-709 SEXUAL OFFENDER REGISTRATION (Damiani & Others) This act would direct the parole board to utilize the state police web site and the R.I. unified court system web site when assessing the appropriate level of community notification regarding the release of sex offenders. Judiciary

S-720 IMMIGRATION STATUS PROTECTION (Pichardo & Others) This act would restrict state and local law enforcement from ascertaining a person's immigration status. Judiciary

S-725 MEDICAL USE OF MARIJUANA (Perry & Others) This act would authorize the use of marijuana for medical purposes only. Judiciary

S-739 DNA DETECTION OF FELONY OFFENDER (Damiani & Others) This act would extend the applicability of the "DNA Detection of Felony Offenders" chapter to include offenders convicted of any felony. Judiciary

S-844 PUBLIC RECORDS (Blais) This act would provide that information developed and adopted as security measures against terrorism would not be deemed to be "public records" for purposes of access to public records. Government Oversight

S-879 NFPA 1500 (Lanzi & Others) This act would establish a NFPA 1500 Implementation Plan Review Committee, and would also provide fines for failure by

a fire department to provide a written plan to implement the requirements of NFPA 1500. Health & Human Services

S-885 MOTOR VEHICLES (Sosnowski & Others) This act would create firefighter license plates. Constitutional & Gaming Issues

S-958 WEAPONS (Issa & Others) This act amends the law dealing with the liability of a person who negligently leaves a firearm on his/her premises in such a manner that a child may obtain it by increasing penalties, and by amending the definition of a child to anyone under the age of 21 years. Judiciary

S-985 TRAFFIC STOPS (Damiani & Others) This act would require the Traffic Stop Study Advisory Committee to hold public meetings to discuss the final report, and would provide more time to report the findings and conclusions. Commerce, Housing & Municipal Government

RETIREMENT

S-373 CETA PROGRAM (Ciccone & Others) This act would allow the purchase of service credit for time served as an employee of this state while under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA). Finance

S-508 COST OF LIVING ALLOWANCE (Blais & Breene) This act would give retired state employees and retired teachers, and their beneficiaries a cost-of-living increase equal to 3% or a rate equal to the total percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index, whichever rate is lower. Finance

S-524 MILITARY SERVICE (DaPonte & Ruggerio) This act would allow certain pension payments from a military retirement system to count as credit in the Municipal Employees' Retirement System (MERS). Finance

S-534 REEMPLOYMENT OF RETIRED MEMBERS (Breene & Others) This act would raise the days that municipal employees have to reenter service from 75 to not more than 150 days. Commerce, Housing & Municipal Government

S-649 OPTIONAL RETIREMENT FOR POLICE AND FIREFIGHTERS (Ruggerio & Others) This act would amend the formula for determining a police officer's or firefighter's final compensation for retirement purposes. Finance

S-787 TEACHERS' RETIREMENT (Felag) This act would permit retired administrators to substitute as an administrator for a period of up to 110 days without loss of retirement benefits. Finance

S-866 EMPLOYMENT AFTER RETIREMENT (Gallo) This act would allow retired teachers to fill the vacant position of mentor principal or assistant mentor principal for a period of up to 90 days in any one school year without a reduction in retirement pay and/or benefits. Education

TOWN AND CITY CLERKS

H-6278 REAL ESTATE DEEDS (Amaral & Others) This act would require all real estate deeds to contain the post office address and tax assessor's plat and lot of the property being conveyed. In addition, it would require the city/town clerks to refuse to accept for recording any deed that does not contain the required information. Judiciary

H-6320 PROBATE: DISTRIBUTION OF REAL ESTATE (DeSimone & Others) This act would require the executor or administrator of any probate estate where there is a descent or distribution of real estate to cause a deed to be filed with the recorder of deeds of every city/town in which property of the decedent is situated. Judiciary

S-438 PUBLIC RECORDS – EXCLUSIONS (Raptakis & Others) This act would make any record not specifically mentioned in Section 38-2-2 a public record. Government Oversight

S-496 SAME GENDER MARRIAGES (Perry) This act would authorize same gender marriages. Judiciary

S-702 PROBATE: DISTRIBUTION OF REAL ESTATE (Caprio & Goodwin) This act would require the executor or administrator of any probate estate where there is a descent or distribution of real estate to cause a deed to be filed with the recorder of deeds of every city/town in which property of the decedent is situated. Judiciary

S-707 CIVIL UNIONS (Perry & Others) This act would provide for recognition of civil unions for gay and lesbian couples, and would provide eligible couples with the same benefits and protections as married couples. Judiciary

S-708 MARRIAGE LICENSES (Gibbs) This act would implement a statewide electronic marriage license issuance and record registration system. Judiciary

S-711 PROBATE: NOTICE (Paiva-Weed & Gibbs) This act would amend certain notice requirements relative to probate practice, and who is required to give notice in the event of a devise to a corporation or voluntary association. Judiciary

S-750 RECORDING OF INSTRUMENTS (Ruggerio & Goodwin) This act would establish a new tax, which would be imposed on promissory notes, mortgages, charge cards and other financial transactions. Finance

MISCELLANEOUS

H-6264 GAMBLING ACTIVITIES (Sherlock & Others) This act would establish, pursuant to voter referendum, casino gambling within the state of Rhode Island, and would provide the mechanism for licensing, regulating, and enforcing this enterprise. Finance

H-6275 PUBLIC UTILITIES (Aubin & Lowe) This act would require that a public utility company maintain its infrastructure, and to bear all costs associated with the relocation of the same when the infrastructure is located in a municipal right-of-way, or relocation is mandated by state and/or federal law. Corporations

H-6324 MUNICIPAL COURTS (Ajello & Others) This act would withhold the degree of any nonresident student of any college, university or institution of higher learning if the student has any outstanding fines or court costs associated with any summons which is the subject of this chapter. Judiciary

H-6326 TORT LIABILITY (Fox & DeSimone) This act would expand indemnification-reservation of obligation in government tort liability to include all cities and towns and their political subdivisions. Finance

H-6331 BUILDINGS IN BLIGHTED AREAS (Almeida & Others) This act would provide an income tax credit for business use within a designated project area identified as a blighted area. Finance

S-410 MUNICIPAL INSURANCE (Irons) This act would expand the insurable entities protected by an established insurance corporation of 2 or more towns/cities to include school committees. Those established insurance corporations would be deemed to be non-profit, quasi-public municipal corporations, the governing members of which will act as fiduciaries. The corporations described in this law would be given exemption from purchasing and open meeting laws. Commerce, Housing & Municipal Government

S-416 STATE-LOCAL RELATIONS COMMISSION (Gallo & Others) This act would add language to include local school districts and school committees within the membership and purpose of the State-local Relations Commission. Education

S-419 MILL BUILDING AND ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION (Celona & Others) This act would allow real estate developers who renovate old mills for residential use to receive business tax credits. Finance

S-450 LEAD PAINT ACTIONS (Tassoni & Celona) This act would provide a statute of limitations upon when certain entities may bring a lawsuit for damages involving lead paint. Judiciary

S-467 TORT LIABILITY (Perry & McCaffrey) This act would increase governmental tort liability from \$100,000 to \$150,000. Judiciary

S-498 ACTIONS BY AND AGAINST TOWNS (McCaffrey) This act would repeal the requirement that a person injured on a city/town highway, causeway or bridge give notice to the city/town within 60 days. Judiciary

S-530 BUILDINGS IN BLIGHTED AREAS (Goodwin & Alves) This act would provide an income tax credit for business use within a designated project area. Finance

S-573 CONTRACTORS' BONDS (McCaffrey) This act would hold liable any state, city or town agency which fails to require contractors to file labor and materials bonds. Labor

S-574 CONTRACTORS' BONDS (Badeau) This act would hold liable any state, city or town agency which fails to require contractors to file labor and materials bonds. Labor

S-587 OPEN MEETINGS (Paiva-Weed & Others) This act would require an additional online posting of all meeting notices and agendas of public bodies. Government Oversight

S-588 URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE (Lenihan & Others) This act would create a state Urban Infrastructure Commission. Government Oversight

S-602 SAFETY AWARENESS (Ruggerio & Others) This act would provide for enforcement of safety awareness programs. Labor

S-621 PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENT (Ruggerio & Others) This act would allow a public entity to use a project labor agreement on a public works project. Labor

S-622 PUBLIC WORKS (Ruggerio & Others) This act would amend and clarify the definition of public works. Labor

S-623 LABOR AND PAYMENT OF DEBTS BY CONTRACTORS (Ruggerio & Others) This act would allow private rights of action by an employee or any organization representing such employee against a contractor for violations of payment of wages provisions of a contract. Labor

S-624 LABOR AND PAYMENT OF DEBTS BY CONTRACTORS (Ruggerio & Others) This act would clarify circumstances in which a call for bids for contracts issued by the state or its public agencies or quasi-public agencies would apply. Labor

S-724 CODE OF ETHICS (Paiva-Weed & Others) This act would reduce the number of persons who are required to file financial statements with the Ethics Commission. Judiciary

S-761 PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS (Goodwin) This act would enable any public agency to utilize an owner controlled insurance program for public works projects where the hard construction costs is in excess of \$5,000,000. Finance

S-762 HEALTH INSURANCE (Roberts & Others) This act would create a Health Purchasing Board to enable the State of Rhode Island to become a more prudent purchaser of health insurance. Finance

S-779 BURIALS (Blais) This act would make amendments to the Public Assistance Act to clarify the process to provide burial for the unclaimed bodies of persons who may die in the state. Finance

S-842 ELECTRONIC GOVERNMENT SERVICES (Blais & Breene) This act would prohibit a government agency from engaging in any electronic commerce activity. Financial, Technology & Regulatory

S-845 OPEN MEETINGS (Paiva-Weed) This act would establish an open government public information officer to develop, establish, implement and/or approve education programs for public officials and the public concerning the open meetings and access to public records acts. Government Oversight

S-892 DOGS (Perry & Others) This act would provide guidelines and penalties for any person that keeps a dog outside tethered, penned, caged, fenced or otherwise confined. Constitutional & Gaming Issues

S-907 SMOKING IN PUBLIC PLACES (Alves) This act would authorize the General Assembly to establish, by statute, statewide enforcement of smoking prohibitions, sales, enforcement, and use, unless the General Assembly, by statute, delegates its authority to the cities and towns. Health & Human Services